



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS

Small Grains Summary
Quarterly U.S. Hogs & Pigs
September 1 Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received

September 2008 Small Grain Summary

All wheat production, at 164.7 million bushels, is up 10 percent from the 2007 crop of 149.8 million bushels. Montana's 2008 winter wheat production was 94.4 million bushels, 13 percent above last year's production of 83.2 million bushels. Producers seeded 2.60 million acres, 16 percent above the 2007 acreage of 2.24 million. Producers harvested 2.42 million acres, up 230,000 acres from last year's acreage of 2.19 million acres. The 2008 average yield, at 39.0 bushels per acre, is unchanged from the August forecast, but 1 bushel higher than last year.

Spring wheat production in Montana was 59.5 million bushels, up 8 percent from 2007 due to more acres planted and a slightly higher yield. The final seeded acreage was 2.55 million acres, up 100,000 acres from last year's acreage of 2.45 million. Producers harvested 2.48 million acres, up 80,000 acres from the previous year's acreage of 2.40 million. Yields averaged 24.0 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from the August forecast, and up 1 bushel from the previous year.

Montana durum wheat growers seeded 590,000 acres, up 110,000 acres from last year. Producers harvested 570,000 acres, up 20 percent from 2007. The average yield was 19.0 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year and down 2 bushels from the previous forecast. Total production for 2008 was estimated at 10.8 million bushels, down 5 percent from last year's 11.4 million bushels.

In 2008, Montana producers seeded 860,000 acres of barley, 40,000 acres fewer than 2007. Producers harvested 740,000 acres for grain, 20,000 more than last year. The final yield for 2008 was 51.0 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from last year and up 4 bushels from the August forecast. Production was estimated at 37.7 million bushels, 19 percent above last year.

Oat production in Montana was estimated at 1.5 million bushels, down 16 percent from last year. Planted acreage was 60,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from 2007. Harvested acreage for grain was 30,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. Planted acreage set a new record low, while harvested acreage and production were the second lowest on record. Average yield, at 51.0 bushels per acre, was 1 bushel below 2007, but up 3 bushels from the previous forecast.

For the U.S., all wheat production totals 2.50 billion bushels in 2008, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 21 percent from 2007. Grain area is 55.7 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 44.9 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from the last forecast and up 4.4 bushels from last year. The levels of production and changes from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.87 billion bushels, up 23 percent; other spring wheat, 547 million bushels, up 14 percent; Durum wheat, 84.9 million bushels, up 18 percent.

The 2008 U.S. winter wheat production is estimated at 1.87 billion bushels, down slightly from the final forecast but up 23 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 47.2 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from August and up 5.0 bushels from last year's final yield. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 39.6 million acres, down 2 percent from the last forecast but up

10 percent from the previous year. Hard Red Winter harvested acreage is up about 1 percent from the previous year while Soft Red Winter harvested acreage is up about 43 percent.

Other spring wheat production for the U.S. in 2008 is estimated at 547 million bushels, up 9 percent from the August forecast and up 14 percent from last year. Harvested area is 13.5 million acres, down 2 percent from August but up 4 percent from 2007. The U.S. yield is 40.5 bushels per acre, 4.1 bushels above the last forecast and up 3.5 bushels from last year.

U.S. durum wheat production for 2008 totaled 84.9 million bushels, down 2 percent from the August forecast but up 18 percent from 2007. Grain area harvested is 2.58 million acres, down fractionally from August but up 22 percent from the previous year. The U.S. yield is estimated at 32.8 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from the last forecast and down 1.1 bushels from 2007.

Barley production for the U.S. is estimated at 239 million bushels, 10 percent above the August forecast and 13 percent above 2007. Average yield per acre, at 63.6 bushels, is up 3.7 bushels from August and 3.2 bushels from last year. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.77 million acres, up 7 percent from a year ago.

U.S. oat production is estimated at a record low 88.6 million bushels, 1 percent below the August 1 forecast and down 3 percent from last year. The estimated yield is 63.5 bushels per acre, up 1.2 bushels from the last forecast and up 2.6 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 1.40 million acres, is 3 percent and 7 percent below August and last year, respectively. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, continuing a steady downward trend.

September 1, 2008 Small Grains Production, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Montana		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu	2,240.0	2,600.0	2,190.0	2,420.0	38.0	39.0	83,220	94,380
Durum Wheat	Bu	480.0	590.0	475.0	570.0	24.0	19.0	11,400	10,830
Spring Wheat	Bu	2,450.0	2,550.0	2,400.0	2,480.0	23.0	24.0	55,200	59,520
All Wheat	Bu	5,170.0	5,740.0	5,065.0	5,470.0	29.6	30.1	149,820	164,730
Barley	Bu	900.0	860.0	720.0	740.0	44.0	51.0	31,680	37,740
Oats	Bu	75.0	60.0	35.0	30.0	52.0	51.0	1,820	1,530
United States		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu	44,987.0	46,181.0	35,952.0	39,614.0	42.2	47.2	1,515,989	1,867,903
Durum Wheat	Bu	2,149.0	2,731.0	2,112.0	2,584.0	33.9	32.8	71,686	84,877
Spring Wheat	Bu	13,297.0	14,135.0	12,947.0	13,487.0	37.0	40.5	479,047	546,744
All Wheat	Bu	60,433.0	63,047.0	51,011.0	55,685.0	40.5	44.9	2,066,722	2,499,524
Barley	Bu	4,020.0	4,234.0	3,508.0	3,767.0	60.4	63.6	211,825	239,498
Oats	Bu	3,760.0	3,217.0	1,505.0	1,395.0	60.9	63.5	91,599	88,635

U.S. Hog Inventory up 2 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2008 was 68.7 million head. This was up 2 percent from September 1, 2007 and up 1 percent from June 1, 2008.

Breeding inventory, at 6.05 million head, was down 3 percent from last year and down 1 percent from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 62.6 million head, was up 3 percent from last year and up 2 percent from last quarter.

The June-August 2008 pig crop, at 29.3 million head, was up 1 percent from 2007 and up 10 percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.08 million head, down 2 percent from 2007 but up 6 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 51 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.51 for the June-August 2008 period, compared to 9.29 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.80 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.60 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.01 million sows farrow during the September-November 2008 quarter, down 5 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in

2007, but up 2 percent from 2006. Intended farrowings for December 2008-February 2009, at 2.98 million sows, are down 3 percent from 2008 but up 3 percent from 2007.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 43 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 40 percent last year.

September 1, 2008 Grain Stocks

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on September 1, 2008 were 152.8 million bushels, up 4 percent from a year ago. All wheat stocks stored on farm amounted to 129.0 million bushels, up 6 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off farm amounted to 23.8 million bushels, down 6 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the June - August 2008 quarter was down 7 percent from the same quarter last year to 30.9 million bushels, compared with 33.2 million a year ago.

Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 2008 were 38.4 million bushels, up 7 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on farms was 30.0 million bushels, up 15 percent from last year. Off farm storage of barley was down 15 percent from a year ago to 8.4 million bushels. The June -

August 2008 indicated disappearance of 8.0 million bushels is down less than 1 percent from the same period a year earlier. Oat stocks in all positions were 1.8 million bushels, down 14 percent from last year. On farm oat stocks were 1.8 million bushels, down 14 percent from a year ago. Oats stored off farm were down 5,000 bushels from last year to 30,000 bushels.

All wheat stored in all positions in the United States on September 1, 2008 totaled 1.86 billion bushels, up 8 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 635 million bushels, up 28 percent from last September. Off-farm stocks, at 1.22 billion bushels, are down slightly from a year ago. The June - August 2008 indicated disappearance is 949 million bushels, up 18 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions on September 1, 2008 totaled 59.0 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 36.2 million bushels, are up 4 percent from September 1, 2007. Off-farm stocks totaled 22.8 million bushels, down 36 percent from a year ago. The June - August 2008 indicated disappearance of 34.2 million bushels is up 51 percent from the same period a year earlier . (continued on back page)

Montana's August full month crop prices were mostly higher when compared with July 2008. Montana's winter wheat price was \$7.78 per bushel, down \$0.72, spring wheat went down \$1.73 to \$8.37 per bushel, but durum wheat increased \$1.99 to \$11.90 per bushel. Feed barley decreased \$0.41 to \$3.79 per bushel, but malt barley was up \$0.06 per bushel to \$5.72 from last month.

Livestock prices for the full month of August were mixed when compared with July 2008. Steers and heifers rose \$2.00 to \$103.00 per cwt, cows were down \$3.20 to \$55.90 per cwt, beef cattle jumped \$7.50 to \$92.60 per cwt, and calves were up \$3.00 to \$108.00 per cwt. Sheep prices were down \$8.00 to \$18.00 per cwt, and lambs, at \$101.00 per cwt, were down

Mid-month September prices for livestock were mostly higher with the per cwt price as follows: Steers and heifers were \$105.00, cows were \$51.80, beef cattle were \$99.10, and calves were \$115.00. The mid-month September all milk price was \$19.20 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-September prices are as follows: Winter wheat was \$6.63 per bushel, spring wheat was \$7.38 per

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in September, at 154 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 2 points (1.3 percent) from August. The Crop Index is down 3 points (1.7 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 3 points (2.2 percent). Producers received lower prices for wheat, hogs, soybeans, and broilers and higher prices for lettuce, turkeys, eggs, and cottonseed. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of soybeans, corn, apples, and potatoes offset decreased marketings of cattle, wheat, broilers, and grapes.

INDEX (1990-92=100)	August 2007	September 2007	August 2008	September 2008
Prices Received	139	140	156	154
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	161	162	192	194
Ratio 2/	86	86	81	79

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change from Previous		Mid-Month Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Aug 2007	Jul 2008	Aug 2008	Aug 2008	Jul 2008	Aug 2007	15-Sep-08	15-Sep-08
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	5.53	8.50	7.78	7.31	-0.72	2.25	6.99	6.63
Durum Wheat	Bu	6.64	9.91	11.90	12.40	1.99	5.26	11.00	11.90
Spring Wheat	Bu	5.61	10.10	8.37	8.22	-1.73	2.76	7.84	7.38
All Wheat	Bu	5.60	9.56	7.96	7.64	-1.60	2.36	7.22	6.91
All Barley	Bu	3.59	5.57	5.65	5.11	0.08	2.06	5.09	4.83
Feed Barley	Bu	3.22	4.20	3.79	4.55	-0.41	0.57	3.70	4.28
Malt Barley	Bu	3.65	5.66	5.72	5.27	0.06	2.07	5.15	5.10
Oats	Bu	2.18	na	na	3.15	na	na	na	2.92
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	80.00	115.00	128.00	180.00	13.00	48.00	132.00	176.00
All Other Hay	Ton	84.00	127.00	120.00	126.00	-7.00	36.00	106.00	122.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	81.00	116.00	127.00	165.00	11.00	46.00	128.00	161.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	102.00	101.00	103.00	100.00	2.00	1.00	105.00	99.50
Cows	Cwt	53.60	59.10	55.90	57.40	-3.20	2.30	51.80	56.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	94.70	85.10	92.60	96.10	7.50	-2.10	99.10	94.90
Calves	Cwt	122.00	105.00	108.00	116.00	3.00	-14.00	115.00	116.00
Sheep	Cwt	20.00	26.00	18.00	26.30	-8.00	-2.00	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	101.00	105.00	101.00	99.60	-4.00	0.00	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	21.90	19.10	20.70	18.40	1.60	-1.20	19.20	18.00

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available.

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September 1, 2008 Grain Stocks (continued from page two)

Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 2008 totaled 207 million bushels, up 10 percent from September 1, 2007. On-farm stocks are estimated at 127 million bushels, 20 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 80.4 million bushels, are 3 percent

below September 2007. The June - August 2008 indicated disappearance is 100 million bushels, 9 percent above the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on September 1, 2008 totaled 119 million bushels, 35 percent above the stocks on September 1, 2007. Of the total stocks on hand, 52.8 million bushels are stored

on farms, 2 percent lower than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 66.3 million bushels, 91 percent above the previous year. Indicated disappearance during June - August 2008 totaled 36.3 million bushels, compared with 53.8 million bushels during the same period a year ago.

September 1, 2008 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept.1, 2007	June 1, 2008	Sept. 1, 2008	'08/'07	Sept. 1, 2007	June 1, 2008	Sept. 1, 2008
Thousand Bushels				Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	122,000	5,800	129,000	106%	495,000	25,635	635,000
Off Farms 1/	25,140	13,110	23,750	94%	1,221,927	280,183	1,221,576
TOTAL	147,140	18,910	152,750	104%	1,716,927	305,818	1,856,576
DURUM WHEAT 2/							
On Farms 3/	--	--	--	--	34,700	2,350	36,200
Off Farms 1/, 3/	--	--	--	--	35,764	5,938	22,799
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	70,464	8,288	58,999
BARLEY							
On Farms	26,000	2,450	30,000	115	105,600	9,950	127,070
Off Farms 1/	9,930	6,180	8,400	85	83,095	58,273	80,369
TOTAL	35,930	8,630	38,400	107	188,695	68,223	207,439
OATS							
On Farms	2,100	750	1,800	86	53,650	16,100	52,800
Off Farms 1/	35	50	30	86	34,710	50,674	66,275
TOTAL	2,135	800	1,830	86	88,360	66,774	119,075
CORN							
On Farms 3/	--	--	--	--	460,100	1,970,900	499,950
Off Farms 1/, 3/	--	--	--	--	843,547	2,057,117	1,124,200
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	1,303,647	4,028,017	1,624,150
1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Included in all wheat. 3/ Not published in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.							

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COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Cash Receipts County	Milk Production
Estimates	Red Meat Production
Potato Disposition	Grain Movement
Cattle on Feed	
Egg Production	

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